

**TO: Honorable Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker,  
And the Members of the Appropriations Committee**

Testimony in **FAVOR** of **SB816**

*An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula*

Thursday, April 2, 2015

I don't have children, but I do recognize the value that an educated society brings to all of us. However, the funding under the ECS grant is putting an unfair burden on the citizens of Haddam CT.

Haddam is one of 19 towns that are underfunded within this system. We receive only 42% of the amount required by the ECS formula and are the tenth worst funded municipality in the state. The grant distribution was calculated when the CT Yankee Nuclear facility was a significant source of tax revenue for Haddam. That is no longer the case and we are now forced to choose between paying extremely high taxes to make up the difference, or to inadequately fund our schools and town government. Our high tax rate also makes Haddam uncompetitive for attracting new business. This could have a detrimental effect on the long-term welfare of our town.

I understand that this is a complicated issue, but I ask that at minimum, you consider an adjustment that would bring the most underfunded towns up to the 50% mark. This would be a step toward making the allocation more fair and just.

The economics of Connecticut's towns are constantly changing just as markets, politics and business trends fluctuate. To allow this formula to remain frozen in time makes no sense. Please restore fairness to school funding by passing SB816.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Bright  
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